

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 04130 091830Z

66

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 104445

R 091150Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4313

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4130

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: PRESS SPECULATION ON AOS

REF: STATE 133620

1. WE SHARE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN OVER UNDUE PRESS SPECULATION CONCERNING ASPECT OF FUTURE POLICY IN LAOS. WE HAVE AVOIDED FUELING SUCH SPECULATION EVEN IN FACE OF DIFFICULT QUESTIONS, BUT WE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT DENY TO THE PRESS (WHO HAVE BEEN HERE IN LARGE NUMBERS) THAT SUCH QUESTIONS AS FUTURE POLICY, POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER U.S. ECONOMIC AID TO LAOS, AND EVEN FUTURE OF MISSION ITSELF HAS ARISEN AND ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON. INDEED, WE NOTE IT WAS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT NOON BRIEFING ON JUNE 4 WHO PUT ON RECORD AS HIS "GUESS" AND "ROUGH PROJECTION" THAT MISSION WOULD BE REDUCED TO ABOUT 50 BY END OF THIS MONTH; OUR PROJECTION WAS SUBMITTED BY CONFIDENTIAL TELEGRAM.

2. CORRESPONDENTS HAVE NOTED -- AS HAVE WE -- THE STRIKING INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN PGNU'S TOLERATION (OR INSPIRATION) OF THE HARASSMENT OF THIS MISSION AND THE BLITHE ASSUMPTION ON THE PART OF SOUVANNA, PHOUMI AND SOME OTHER PGNU OFFICIALS WHOM THEY HAVE INTERVIEWED THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE CAN AND WILL CONTINUE NO MATTER WHAT. ALL IN ALL, IT IS HARDLY ASTONISHING THAT THE PRESS SHOULD BE SPECULATING ON ITS OWN ABOUT SUCH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 04130 091830Z

QUESTIONS.

3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED ALSO THAT MANY EMPLOYEES -- PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO WERE VIRTUAL PRISONERS AT KM-6 FOR A WEEK -- HAVE DEPARTED THIS POST IN AN EXTREMELY BITTER FRAME OF MIND AND HAVE SPOKEN TO PRESS BOTH ON LEAVING HERE AND ON ARRIVING IN BANGKOK. ALTHOUGH IN MOST CASES IT IS PROBABLY ONLY IDLE TALK, SOME HAVE THREATENED TO WRITE THEIR CONGRESSMEN, TO TESTIFY AT FOREIGN AID HEARINGS, AND TO DO ANYTHING ELSE WITHIN THEIR POWER TO BLOCK FURTHER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LAOS. DEPARTMENT SHOULD WEIGH THIS FACTOR ALSO IN EVALUATING PRESS "SPECULATION".

4. FINALLY, WHILE WE AGREE THAT PRESS SPECULATION IS UNDESIRABLE IN THE ABSTRACT AND HAVE NOT ENCOURAGED IT, WE BELIEVE THAT IT MAY HAVE SOME EFFECT -- NOT PRIMARILY INTENDED BY CORRESPONDENTS -- IN ACQUAINTING PGNU LEADERS WITH REALITY MORE DELICATELY THAN WOULD BE THE CASE IF WE HAD TO DO IT DIRECTLY.
CHAPMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI04130
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750200-1091
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750666/aaaaciup.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 133620
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS SPECULATION ON AOS
TAGS: PFOR, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006